In the Claims:

Claims 29, 31, and 47 have been amended, claims 49-55 have been canceled as follows:

29. (Once amended) A method of treating cardiac hypertrophy in a patient comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of interferon gamma (IFN-γ), wherein said cardiac hypertrophy is selected from the group consisting of post myocardial infarction hypertrophy, hypertrophy associated with hypertension, aortic stenosis, valvular regurgitation, cardiac shunt and congestive heart failure.

30. (previously added) The method of claim 29 wherein said patient is human.

31. (Once amended) The method of claim 30 wherein said IFN-γ is recombinant human IFN-γ ~~(rh-IFN-γ)~~ (rhIFN-γ).

32. (Previously added) The method of claim 31 wherein said IFN-γ is rhIFN-γ-1b.

33. (Previously added) The method of claim 30 wherein said cardiac hypertrophy has been induced by myocardial infarction.

34. (Previously added) The method of claim 33 wherein said IFN-γ administration is initiated within 48 hours following myocardial infarction.

35. (Previously added) The method of claim 34 wherein said IFN-γ administration is initiated within 24 hours following myocardial infarction.

36. (Previously added) The method of claim 30 wherein said patient is at risk of developing cardiac hypertrophy.

37. (Previously added) The method of claim 36 wherein said patient has suffered myocardial infarction.

38. (Previously added) The method of claim 37 wherein said IFN-γ administration is initiated within 48 hours following myocardial infarction.

39. (Previously added) The method of claim 38 wherein said IFN-γ administration is initiated within 24 hours following myocardial infarction.

40. (Previously added) The method of claim 30 wherein said IFN-γ is administered in combination with at least one further therapeutic agent used for the treatment of cardiac hypertrophy or a heart disease resulting in cardiac hypertrophy.

41. (Previously added) The method of claim 40 wherein said further therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of β-adrenergic-blocking agents, verapamil, difedipine, and diltiazem.

42. (Previously added) The method of claim 41 wherein said β-adrenergic-blocking agent is a carvedilol, propranolol, metaprolol, timolol, exprenolol or tertatolol.

43. (Previously added) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN-γ is administered in combination with an antihypertensive drug.

44. (Previously added) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN-γ is administered with an ACE-inhibitor.

45. (Previously added) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN-γ is administered with an endothelin receptor antagonist.

46. (Previously added) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN-γ is administered following the administration of a thrombolytic agent.

47. (Once amended) The method of claim ~~45~~ 46 wherein said thrombolytic agent is recombinant human tissue plasminogen activator (rht-PA).

48. (Previously added) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN-γ is administered following primary angioplasty for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction.

49-55 (Canceled)

56. (Previously added) A method of treating cardiac hypertrophy in a patient wherein the cardiac hypertrophy has been induced by a cardiac disease other than hypertrophic cardiomyopathy of viral origin, characterized by the presence of an elevated level of $PGF_{2\alpha}$, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of interferon gamma (IFN-γ).

57. (Previously added) The method of claim 56 wherein the cardiac disease is myocardial infarction.

58. (Previously added) A method of treating cardiac hypertrophy in a patient wherein the cardiac hypertrophy has been induced b myocardial infarction and is characterized by the presence of an elevated level of $PGF_{2\alpha}$ comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of interferon gamma (IFN-γ).

59. (Previously added) The method of claim 58 wherein said IFN-γ is initiated within 48 hours following myocardial infarction.